

fraud on Government programs even when the Government uses agents and other third parties to administer Government programs and contracts; Clarifying that the Government's new or amended complaint in a qui tam action relates back to the original qui tam complaint to the same extent it would relate back if the Government had filed the original complaint; Clarifying that plaintiffs do not need to have access to individual claims data or documents to bring a False Claims Act case; Amending the Act so that a qui tam case may be dismissed in light of prior public disclosures only upon motion of the Government, and only if the case is truly parasitic; Amending and clarifying the Act to specify how the Act's chief investigative tool—the civil investigative demand—may be used to investigate violations of the Act; and clarifying how the Act applies to Federal employees who discover fraud during the course of their employment, by providing the Government authority to move to dismiss the action of any Federal employee who brings a qui tam action under the Act without first having provided the Government fair notice and opportunity to pursue such wrongdoing through its own False Claims Act action or other appropriate remedy.

Fighting fraud against U.S. taxpayers is not a partisan issue. When we passed the False Claims Act amendments in 1986, we did so with a strong bipartisan coalition in both houses. I'm pleased to continue that tradition by introducing this bill today with Representative JIM SENSENBRENNER as my partner. I look forward to working with him to make these amendments to the False Claims Act law this Congress.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE JULIA CARSON,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF INDIANA

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I raise to honor the legacy and accomplishments of our recently passed colleague and dear friend JULIA CARSON.

In 1996 JULIA's deep commitment to those she served led her to become the first African-American woman to be elected to the U.S. House from Indiana. I had the opportunity to get to know JULIA during our freshman terms in the 105th Congress and build a relationship with her over the past 10 years that we have both served. Julia spent her time in Congress working for children's issues, women's rights and efforts to reduce homelessness. One of her biggest accomplishment in the House was passing legislation granting the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks, the Mother of the Civil Rights Movement who was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated city bus in Montgomery, AL. She leaves behind an unmatched record of service to the people and an unequalled legacy of leadership.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying respect to the family of JULIA CARSON and in honoring her career in service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO AARON N.
MENICHETTI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron N. Menichetti a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron N. Menichetti for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL
STRAUSS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Mr. William Arthur Strauss.

I first met Bill Strauss in 1963 when we were both pages here in Washington. Bill served at the Supreme Court; I served in the Senate. Our respective careers continued to revolve around the Nation's capital—mine in Congress, Bill's in the executive branch.

Bill boasted an education few can match: an undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 1969, a law degree from Harvard, and a master's degree from Harvard's venerable John F. Kennedy School of Government. He returned to Washington with his young bride in 1973, joining the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (now Health and Human Services) as a policy aide. He quickly moved up to the Presidential Clemency Board, directing a report on the impact of the Vietnam War on draft-eligible youth.

Bill Strauss continued his work for the Federal Government, moving to the Department of Energy in 1977. Subsequently, in 1980 Mr. Strauss became chief counsel and staff director of the Subcommittee on Energy, Nuclear Proliferation, and Government Processes.

Despite his long service in the Federal Government—or, possibly more aptly, as a result of it—Mr. Strauss discovered at a Memorial Day party in 1981 that he was blessed with the gift of improvisational comedy. Having performed successfully to a receptive audience of friends, Mr. Strauss realized he could make a living satirizing the goings-on within the Beltway.

During his office's Christmas party in 1981, Mr. Strauss, along with a group later christened the Capitol Steps, performed his first musical parody. Senator Charles Percy (R-Ill.), his employer, and the rest of the staff knew instantly that Bill Strauss had a gift. The group

grew steadily over the years, blossoming into the now \$3-million-a-year industry with performances across the country.

Despite these notable achievements, Bill will probably be best remembered for founding the Critics and Awards Program, otherwise known as the Cappies. Bill was inspired to institute this regional institution, which honors exceptional high school dramatic and musical performances throughout the Washington, DC, metro area, after being diagnosed with an aggressive strain of pancreatic cancer. Every year, high school students gather at the Kennedy Center for a ceremony not unlike the Tony Awards in New York. I look forward to the Cappies every year, and hope this tradition continues for years to come.

I was saddened to hear Bill succumbed to cancer at his home in McLean, VA, on December 18, 2007. His legacy of both the Capitol Steps and the Cappies will keep his memory alive within the Capitol Beltway for many years to come. May the elected officials in this body never cease to give Mr. Strauss' company a plethora of material to keep the country laughing.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Mr. William Arthur Strauss, and express my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved him.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 19, 2007]

BILL STRAUSS, 60; POLITICAL INSIDER WHO
STEPPED OVER INTO COMEDY

(By Joe Holley)

Capitol Steps founder Bill Strauss was a Harvard-trained lawyer and Senate subcommittee staffer when he broke through the chrysalis of Capitol Hill conventionality to become a musical satirist.

Mr. Strauss, who died Dec. 18 of pancreatic cancer at his home in McLean, recalled the breakthrough in a phone interview shortly before his death at age 60.

It was Memorial Day 1981, he said, and he was hosting a party that ended with a jam session around the piano. Party-goers riffed on parodies of Reagan-era news makers.

Mr. Strauss discovered that night that he had a facility for impromptu silliness and satire. He began to wonder whether, at age 34, he might be able to make a living at it, even though his only musical training was a stint in his elementary school orchestra.

During the next several months, when not worrying about nuclear proliferation and other weighty matters, he wrote musical parodies. Enlisting other musically gifted Senate staffers, he scheduled the group's debut at the annual office Christmas party of Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.). Mr. Strauss's employer.

The group christened itself the Capitol Steps, an allusion to the location of a late-night amorous moment enjoyed by Rep. John W. Jenrette (D-S.C.) and his wife, Rita.

Capitol Steps was a hit from the beginning. For the next few years, the group performed regularly for free at parties and in church basements. "We were clinging to our day jobs," co-founder Elaina Newport said. "Frankly, we were trying not to get in trouble."

Today, Capitol Steps is still performing, although not in church basements. It's a \$3 million-a-year industry with more than 40 employees who sing and satirize at venues across the country.

The group's success was "totally out of the blue," Mr. Strauss said. "Neither I nor anyone else was expecting it."

Mr. Strauss's more serious side found expression in six books he co-authored about